Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR)

34th SESSION
1 - 3 November 2017
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Wednesday, 1 November 2017
Afternoon Session

Agenda Item 3. Enhancing comparability of sustainability reporting: Selection of core indicators for company reporting on the contribution towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals

Presented by

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Enabling & tracking the private sector contribution to the SDGs
UNCTAD-ISAR,
Geneva, 1 November 2017

Teresa Fogelberg
GRI Deputy Chief Executive
Agenda

Presentation structure

i. About GRI

ii. GRI & SDGs

iii. Action Platform Reporting on the SDGs
About GRI
Who We Are

We are an international independent organization that has pioneered sustainability reporting for two decades.
Our Work

We help businesses and governments understand and communicate their impact on critical sustainability issues.
Our Vision

“
A thriving global community that lifts humanity and enhances the resources on which all life depends.

"
Our Mission

“

To empower decisions that create social, environmental and economic benefits for everyone.

“
GRI Standards

• GRI Standards are a set of interrelated reporting standards, enabling organizations to report publicly on their economic, environmental and social impacts and contribution towards sustainable development.

• The GRI Standards represent global best practice for reporting sustainability information – enhancing its comparability and quality.
The set of GRI Standards includes:

- **3 universal Standards**, applicable to all organizations

- **33 topic-specific Standards**, organized into Economic, Environmental, and Social series

- Organizations select and use only the relevant topic-specific Standards, based on their material topics.
Benefits of the GRI Standards

- **Flexible and future-proof structure:** Ensures the GRI Standards remain up-to-date and relevant

- **Policy integration and referencing:** Governments and market regulators can easily reference the Standards in their policy initiatives

- **Common language:** One framework to meet all sustainability reporting needs – from comprehensive reports to issue-specific disclosures

- **Credibility and robustness:** Developed with multi-stakeholder contributions and rooted in the public interest
Our Impact

111 policies across 50 countries and regions reference GRI

74% of the largest 250 companies in the world use GRI's sustainability reporting framework

30,100 participants trained through GRI Certified Training Courses

522 organizations from 67 countries active in the GRI GOLD Community

40,000+ reports registered in the GRI Sustainability Disclosure Database

89 training partners across 54 countries offer GRI Certified Training Courses

315 of the FT Europe 500 companies use GRI to report
GRI & the SDGs

Enabling and tracking private sector contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
GRI and the SDGs

Reporting as a tool for businesses

• GRI enables businesses to identify and communicate their contribution to the SDGs

• GRI engage more businesses to report as a response to the SDGs

• GRI supports reporting aligned with the SDGs
Target 12.6 – increased coverage of Sustainability reporting worldwide: “Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle”

- The database presents policy development and sustainability reporting data for each country around the world
- Search by country, region, sector, size of the company, year and report type
- Developed by GRI and Tata Consultancy Services

http://database.globalreporting.org/SDG-12-6
The SDG Compass

• Partnership with the UN Global Compact and WBCSD in 2015
• Publication and online tool to guide companies how they can align their strategies, measure and manage their contributions to the SDGs
SDGs at Annual High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

- the central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development & SDGs

- all States Members of the United Nations; once a year in New-York

- Member States progress are reviewed through the voluntary national review
Key figures concerning the private sector

43 countries presented their VNR

93% consulted private sector for the review

68% recognize the private sector investment as key for the SDGs

59% refer to CSR & corporate sustainability reporting
The future of reporting
Focus on the Reporting on SDGs Action Platform

[Image of the 17 SDGs icons]
Reporting on the SDGs 2016 - 2019

An Action Platform to accelerate corporate reporting on the Global Goals

More Straightforward
→ Relevant Indicators

Easier to understand
→ Guidance for Business Practitioners

Simpler to execute
→ Alignment/merging GRI Standards & UNGC Communication on Progress

Accessible to all users
→ Aggregation of data
Engaging leading businesses and non-corporate stakeholders

- The Action Platform is built from two components:

- The Corporate Action Group (CAG) serves as a business engagement and peer learning forum, where business representatives can demonstrate leadership by helping define and promote their contributions to the SDGs.

- The Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee (MAC) is comprised of the members of the CAG, plus representatives from other stakeholder groups: governments, international and civil society organizations, investors, trade unions, data users, statistical offices and academics. This committee will provide guidance for the research and analysis done by the UN Global Compact and GRI.
**Reporting on the SDGs**

**Expected outcomes of the Action Platform**

**PHASE 1 (2017)**

1. **LIST OF BUSINESS DISCLOSURES ACROSS THE SDGs**
   A validated list of business disclosures across the SDGs, to be presented by the platform members during the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2017. Additionally, the Action Platform will make a gap analysis of available indicators.

2. **PUBLICATION ON BEST PRACTICE SDGs REPORTING**
   A publication on leadership and best practice for business on SDGs reporting will be developed and presented at the UN Global Compact Leaders’ Summit, convened during the UN General Assembly in September 2017.

**LATER PHASE**

3. **FURTHER INTEGRATION OF SDGs INTO FRAMEWORKS**
   A set of recommendations for how to build the SDGs into the UN Global Compact Communication on Progress (COP) framework and the GRI Standards, and how to further align and integrate the different standards, requirements and interfaces.

4. **SDG DATA AGGREGATION**
   A roadmap on ways to extract and aggregate data on SDG implementation from a large volume of corporate reports.
Our first deliverable: Analysis of goals and targets

- Example business impacts, actions and current business expectations
- Create a common language for SDG reporting
- Categorize SDG targets
- Identify existing indicators
- Identify gaps (missing indicators)
Reporting on the SDGs

Analysis of goals and targets

09 SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION
10 I. What is this document about?
12 II. How to use this document
14 III. Corporate reporting on the SDGs: Why it matters and where we stand today
15 IV. The contents of this document: Business disclosures across SDG targets, indicators and gap analysis
16 V. How this document was produced
17 VI. Next steps

18 SECTION 2: BUSINESS DISCLOSURES PER SDG TARGET
19 SDG 1: NO POVERTY
20 Target 1.1. By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day
21 Target 1.2. By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

28 SDG 2: NO HUNGER
29 Target 2.1. By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
30 Target 2.2. By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting

208 SECTION 3: APPENDICES
209 I. Cross-cutting principles underlying the development of this publication
211 II. SDG target list
213 III. List of publications and other resources that informed this publication
218 IV. Criteria for selecting the disclosure and indicator sources
219 V. List of disclosure and indicator sources considered
220 VI. Examples of relevant UN Conventions and other key international agreements and other internationally agreed instruments
224 VII. Partners and contributors

Section 2 includes all targets from 17 SDGs
Structure

Target 3.1
By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

Possible relevant business actions to help achieve this target:
• Supporting effective and inclusive national health systems by complimenting, rather than substituting government and public sector action. Paying fair share of taxes to help finance national health systems.
• Ensuring that company policies and practices respect reproductive rights. Supporting access to reproductive, sexual, maternal, neonatal and child health services. For instance, by providing employees with a list of local trusted healthcare professionals, etc.

Illustrative examples of mostly non-sector specific actions:
• Non-comprehensive list presented in bullet points;
• Non-prescriptive

Disclosures may be quantitative or qualitative, outcome-oriented or process-oriented, entity-specific or related to the value chain.
Reporting on the SDGs

The work ahead

- Publish the Analysis of Goals and Targets in September ’17
- Further develop the Analysis of Goals and Targets
- Filling the Gaps
- Publish the Practical Guide to Prioritizing, Measuring Progress and Taking Action in January 2018
- Continue to align with the SDG Blueprint
- Integrate the results into the GRI Standards and the UNGC Communication of Progress
Reporting on the SDGs

Deliverable 4: Roadmap on ways to extract data on SDG implementation

- Mining and aggregation of SDG data from corporate reports
- Challenges and methodologies
- Next steps:
  - Local dimension → NSO using corporate disclosures on a topic
  - Global dimension → Aggregate data on one topic
  - Provide an annual status report to UN Member States on the contribution of global business to the SDGs
Thank you